

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraphs after the paragraph ending at page 3, line 2, and before the section titled "Disclosure of the Invention."

Brief Description of the Drawing

Figure 1 is a flow chart that schematically illustrates an exemplary hydrometallurgical process.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph.

Precipitation III was also performed with SO_3 solution ~~SO_3 3recipitation III was also performed with SO_3 solution~~ equal to 43.2%, the iron content in solution decreased to 7.7g/l. A portion of admixtures, ~~about 2% of the total amount in the raw material, was precipitated~~ ~~33recipita,3recipitation III was also performed with SO_3 solution equal to 43.2%, the iron content in solution decreased to 7.7g/l.~~ A portion of admixtures, about 2% of the total amount in the raw material, was precipitated together with iron (III) sulfate crystals. ~~33recipitatio,33recipitation III was a,3recipitation III was also perf,3rec,3recipitation III was also performed with SO_3 solution equal to 43.2%, the iron content in solution decreased to 7.7g/l.~~ A portion of admixtures, ~~about 2% of the total amount~~